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Maddi's mum 'all clear' after health scare

Relief for parents who lost little Madison to cancer

By CATHERINE PYE

FAMILY VALUES: Samantha and Mark Allan with Madison

After being told there was a '90 per cent chance' of having cancer, the mum of tragic Madison Allan is now celebrating being given the all clear.

Just months after the seven-year-old's death from a neuroblastoma tumour on Boxing Day, doctors told Samantha Allan that a lump in her left thigh was likely to be a rare cancer called sarcoma.

The defiant customer services adviser of Lord's Crescent, Lower Darwen, said she was determined to fight the illness, and she proceeded with surgery to remove the egg-sized growth.

Now biopsy results have shown that the tumour was benign, and Samantha, who is married to Mark and has a three-year-old daughter Scarlett, has vowed to 'getting on with my life and enjoying being a mummy'.

Samantha, 36, said that after various scans the doctors were 90-99 per cent sure it was cancer.

She said: "I had a biopsy four weeks ago which was inconclusive. The decision by myself and my consultant was to take this lump out, so two weeks ago I had the lump removed, which was slightly bigger than an egg. Last Thursday I went back for my results and I was given the all clear. I do not have cancer.

"I am very, very, happy. I now can get on with my life and enjoy being a mummy.

"I want to say a huge thank you to everybody for your support and now let's get on with raising funds for Maddi's charity, Maddi's Butterflies."

Farewell to road safety champ

Tributes have been paid to a well-known road safety campaigner who died this month. Great Harwood man Adrian Shurmer has been described as a 'loyal and fairminded' community man.

STORY 3

WISH YOU WERE HERE

Think Floyd, regarded as the number one Pink Floyd tribute act, return to Clitheroe Grand next week with a stunning new show.

LEISURE 10&11

Lights for 'worst junction'

A crossroads dubbed the 'worst junction' in Hyndburn will see intelligent traffic lights installed to stop queuing chaos.

STORY 6

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Citizen In brief

Howzat! Dinner with cricket star

FORMER Lancashire and England cricketer and current director of cricket at Lancashire **Mike Watkinson** will be the special guest at a sportsman's dinner at Hollins Grove Conservative Club, Darwen on August 30. The event also features comedian Lea Roberts and MC Andy Ashworth. Tickets cost £30.

Free concert

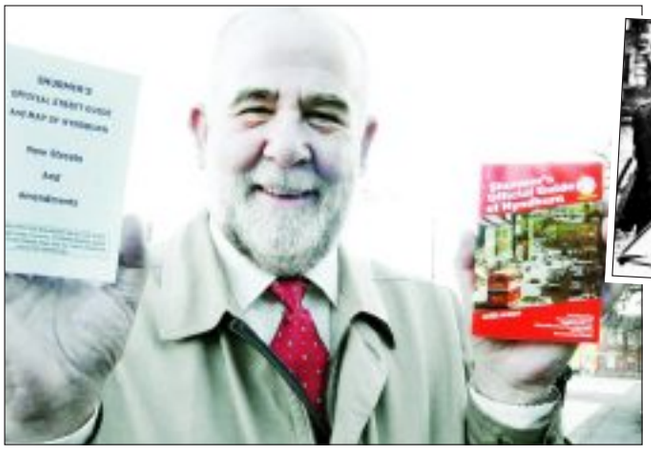
Darwen Cricket Club is to host a free outdoor music event on Saturday, July 28.

Before the music, there will be a family fun day featuring rides, stalls, a barbecue, donkey rides, Sumo wrestlers, morris dancers and majorettes.

The fun starts at 11am and money raised will be donated to the homeless charity Nightsafe.

Pick up a print

Prints by artist **James Hargreaves Morton** are still available to buy from Darwen Library, with all money raised helping towards the long term conservation of Morton's original paintings at the Knott Street site.



INDISPENSABLE
Adrian Shurmer, 69, who has died of cancer, left, with his street guide, and above, in his policing heyday

Safety champ dies

By **PETE MAGILL**

Tributes have been paid to a well-known former policeman and road safety campaigner.

Great Harwood man Adrian Shurmer, a former councillor and author, has been described as a 'loyal and fairminded' community man.

Mr Shurmer, who compiled the Shurmer's Official Guide to Hyndburn and driver's guide Mind How You Go, died at home on Sunday, July 1.The 69-year-old had been in good health until being diagnosed with cancer recently.

A driving instructor with Lancashire Police for almost 30 years, he was passionate about spreading the word on road safety through his company Driver Awareness Ltd.

He spent several years teaching fledgling Premier League stars at Manchester United road safety.

Before setting up his company he spent a year as an independent Great Harwood councillor after a landslide election victory over former council leader George Slynn.

Friend John Duckworth, who is chairman of Great Harwood Regeneration Board, said: "Adrian was just a real character.

"In spite of his election success, he didn't stay in politics too long and instead returned to road safety. He was too honest a man for politics."

His wife Barbara Shurmer, 67, said: "Adrian was very active and we only went on holiday in November.

"When he was on the council, he was the only independent there, between two parties.

"But everyone who knew him knew he was loyal and fair-minded."

Former council leader Peter Britcliffe said: "He was a very forceful and determined councillor who worked very hard to improve highway issues in the borough."

Mr Shurmer leaves sons, Simon and David and daughter-in-law Clair and granddaughters Sophie and Hannah.

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'No more wind turbines' plea

By DAN CLOUGH

A group campaigning against a huge wind turbine in Darwen have called on the council to enforce a blanket ban on applications while official guidelines are drawn up.

The group, led by Cranberry Fold Court resident Martin Vizzard, launched their campaign when an application was lodged for an 85-metre high turbine – taller than India Mill – on land around 400ft from his home.

There was widespread opposition to that proposal, and it was eventually withdrawn by the applicant Mrs Gott, of Pleasant View Farm. But, a new application has been submitted by Mrs Gott for a 65-metre turbine.

Mr Vizzard said: "It will still be as high as Darwen Tower on the skyline. It will be Darwen's newest landmark. We have spent the past two months objecting to

all turbine applications in the area, and we have written to Blackburn with Darwen Council leader Kate Hollern asking for a meeting to discuss suspending all turbine applications."

Mr Vizzard said his group wants a policy in place that sets in stone the maximum height of a turbine within a certain distance of a residential property.

Other councils have set policies on wind turbines including Milton Keynes, which bans any turbines within 1.2km of homes.

Mr Vizzard said: "The effect these applications have on people's lives is staggering.

"When the last one went in, I was getting emails at all times in the night and early morning from people who couldn't sleep they were that worried."

North Turton and Tockholes councillor Jean Rigby said: "I am very unhappy about the new plans. Myself and my husband and fellow councillor Colin have been trying to get a committee together to put a policy in place for turbines.

"We need to bring in guidelines now, and I would be supportive of anything that goes against the desecration of our landscape."

Charity appeals for food

A shelter and drop-in centre is urging people to donate unwanted food.

Maundy Grange boss Dorothy McGregor, 75, said it was becoming 'increasingly difficult' to meet demand placed on the charity by large families who have fallen into poverty. She said the number relying on the Accrington centre had doubled in a year. Food can be dropped off at 29-31 Abbey Street.

'POVERTY': Dorothy McGregor

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'Fill in travel forms ASAP'

PARENTS with children entitled to a free Lancashire county council travel pass are being reminded to fill in their applications quickly.

Education chiefs have told them it's now time to start thinking about school travel costs.

A spokesman said: "Re-issue forms have now been sent out to all pupils who currently hold a free education travelpass so they can re-order their pass.

"If you have not yet received a re-issue form and your child is not changing schools at the start of the autumn term, you should ring the School Traveline.

"If you've received the form but haven't yet dealt with it, please do as soon as possible to ensure that your child has a new free travelpass for the new term."

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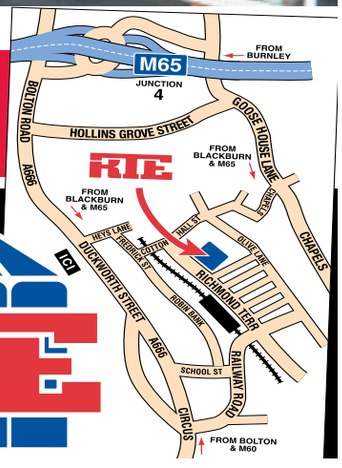

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Lights for 'worst junction'

A borough's 'worst junction' will see intelligent traffic lights installed to stop queuing chaos.

The problem junction at the gateway to Church and Accrington, commonly sees drivers wait up to 20 minutes just to turn. Daily queues at the junction of Dunkenhalgh Way, Henry Street, Hyndburn Road and Dill Hall Lane led the area's county councillor to campaign for action to be taken.

LIGHTS: The junction of Dunkenhalgh Way, Henry Street, Hyndburn Road and Dill Hall Lane

Coun Malcolm Pritchard said the problems caused on a daily basis showed a clear need for the light sequence to be adjusted.

Lancashire County Council has now released funding for the project, which will see intelligent lights at the junction. The new lights will be fitted with Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Actuation (MOVA) technology which senses when traffic queues are starting to build. The sensors are then able to efficiently programme light changes to clear traffic flows quickly and easily. Drivers' main complaint was that the current lights system does not allow a filter lane for traffic from Henry Street and Church to turn right, causing major queues as drivers have to wait for a lull.

Engineers at LCC assessed the result of traffic counts and developed options using computer programs to assess impact elsewhere. LCC will also install central white line marking to help position waiting right turners.

Coun Pritchard said the scheme will cost around £30,000, adding: "It's fantastic news."

Citizen In brief

Strawberries and cream served

A strawberry Fair takes place this month at an Oswaldtwistle church. The event with stalls and a fancy dress runs from 2pm to 4pm at All Saints Church, Aspen Lane, on Saturday. Admission is adults £2, children £1, including strawberries and cream and a drink.

Stall for hospice

A two day event in aid of Derian House Children's Hospice is coming to Accrington Market this summer. The Friends of Derian House will take up a stall on Friday and Saturday, August 10 and 11.

New Rotary head

A youth club project for disabled teens is welcoming new members this summer. The SNAP project meets at New Era Complex, Paradise Street, Accrington, on Tuesdays from 6.30pm to 8pm and Fridays, 7pm to 8.30pm.

Club for teens

Accrington Rotarians have welcomed new president, Malcolm Baldwin, who was elected at a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of Accrington.

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Tower vandals could clean up act

SHAME: Coun Paul Browne inspecting the graffiti

Three teenagers who admitted vandalising Darwen Tower could now help to restore the landmark.

Stephen Potter, chairman of the Friends of Darwen Tower (FODT), said police were approached last week by two girls and a boy who confessed to their role in defacing the replacement dome that was donated free-of-charge by WEC Group in January.

Former town councillor Mr Potter said: "Darwen neighbourhood police told me that these youngsters admitted to doing it, and one of their names was written on the dome quite clearly.

"As for them helping us clean it up, let's wait and see.

"If they genuinely want to help clean up the tower for the good of everyone, then we'd be willing to have them.

"Not all youngsters are bad, it's just a few of them that get led astray.

"A lot of young people want to get up to the tower and enjoy the views. You can't tar them all with the same brush."

It is understood that press interest in the vandalism led to the admissions, and police spoke with the youngsters at the weekend.

Plans are in place for the vandals to explain their actions to councillors as part of the Restorative Justice scheme, which also includes cleaning the area, to make amends for their actions.

Mr Potter said the FODT has 10 volunteers, and plans on how to spend a £6,000 fund are being decided.

Mr Potter added: "The tower needs to be made more accessible – there needs to be steps up to the tower, because it's a struggle to get up there at the moment. Also, we need to put some fluorescent strips in on the stairs, because it's really quite dark on the inside, and it needs sprucing up generally."

The dome on Darwen Tower blew off during high winds in November 2010.

Apprentice engineers at Darwen metal fabricators WEC designed, produced and replaced the dome free of charge.

But in April it was vandalised, with names and obscenities scratched into the paintwork and marker pen used to write on the windows.

Even a plaque commemorating the donation of the new dome was written on.

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Mon 6 Aug	Warwick Castle & Cotswolds	£99
Fri 10 Aug	Folkestone & Bruges Superdeal	£119
Fri 10 Aug	Torquay Special *All-Inclusive*	£179
Fri 17 Aug	Folkestone & Bruges Superdeal	£119
Fri 17 Aug	Ilfracombe Special *All-Inclusive*	£169
Fri 17 Aug	Melrose Spectacular	£169

Folkestone & Bruges ★★ Superdeal ★★ 4 days
Friday 27th July ..only £119
Fridays 3rd or 10th August..only £119
ONLY £119
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★5 DAYS from only £169!★

Wed 18 July	Llandudno Special *All-Inclusive*	£239
Mon 23 July	Nottingham & Peaks *All-Inclusive*	£189
Mon 23 July	Hereford, Worcester & Steam	£199
Mon 23 July	Cotswolds Luxury *All-Inclusive*	£229
Mon 23 July	Torquay Special *All-Inclusive*	£239
Mon 23 July	Highlands Wonderland *All-Inclusive*	£249
Thu 26 July	Shanklin Beach Summer Special	£189
Mon 30 July	Folkestone & Historic Bruges	£199
Mon 30 July	Skegness & The East Coast	£199
Mon 30 July	Newquay & The Eden Project	£229
Mon 30 July	Historic Bath, Stonehenge & Longleat	£239

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Thursday 16th August ..only £199
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Mon 6 Aug	Britains Finest Superdeal	£169
Mon 6 Aug	Durham, Beamish & Holy Island	£199
Mon 6 Aug	Luxury at The Bosworth Hall	£199
Mon 6 Aug	Hereford, Worcester & Steam	£199
Mon 6 Aug	Scarborough Grand Special	£219
Mon 6 Aug	Bournemouth & The South Coast	£219
Mon 6 Aug	Minehead & The West Country	£229
Mon 6 Aug	Highland Railway & Isle of Skye	£269

★Llandudno Special ★ *All-Inclusive* ★ 5 days
Wednesday 18th July..only £239
Wednesday 15th August ..only £249
FROM ONLY £239
Five lovely summer days away. Enjoy four nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the New Loretta Hotel in Llandudno, along with a full programme of entertainment, free glass of wine with dinner & inclusive drinks package each evening. All with coach travel and two inclusive excursions with the promise beautiful coastline and spectacular scenery.

Mon 13 Aug	Britains Finest Superdeal	£169
Mon 13 Aug	Warwick Castle & Oxford Special	£199
Mon 13 Aug	London Summer Spectacular	£199
Mon 13 Aug	Folkestone & Historic Bruges	£199
Mon 13 Aug	Tenby & The Pembrokeshire Coast	£219
Mon 13 Aug	Eastbourne Majestic Special	£229
Mon 13 Aug	Torquay Special *All-Inclusive*	£239
Mon 13 Aug	Historic Bath, Stonehenge & Longleat	£239
Wed 15 Aug	Llandudno Special *All-Inclusive*	£249
Thu 16 Aug	Shanklin Beach Summer Special	£199
Mon 20 Aug	Britains Finest Superdeal	£169
Mon 20 Aug	Hereford, Worcester & Steam	£199
Mon 20 Aug	Torquay Leisure at The Rainbow	£219
Mon 20 Aug	Cotswolds Luxury *All-Inclusive*	£229
Mon 20 Aug	Rothesay & The Isle of Bute	£239
Mon 20 Aug	London Capital Luxury	£259

Torquay Special ★ *All-Inclusive* ★ 5 days
Monday 23rd July ..only £239
Monday 13th August..only £239
Monday 3rd September ..only £229
FROM ONLY £229
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Ignore parking tickets – advice

Shoppers who receive backdated tickets for exceeding 90 minutes parking on the Eastgate retail complex in Accrington should ignore them, Hyndburn Council said.

Its deputy leader Clare Pritchard said she had received an assurance from the sites owners that no-one would be pursued for fines after they agreed to revert to the original three hour parking limit.

Coun Pritchard spoke out after Evesham Close residents Stephen and Laura Robinson got a ticket for exceeding the scrapped 90 minute limit on June 26, the day after it was announced that there would be an amnesty for all those caught on camera overstaying between June 2 up to its abolition on July 6.

When 48-year-old Mr Ronson rang the car park operator, he was told they knew nothing of the change.

But Coun Pritchard said: "We have spoken to the car park owners who have assured us that since the three hour limit has been restored they will not be pursuing any motorists who exceeded the 90 minute limit after June 2.

"Our advice to motorists who receive tickets for that period is just ignore them."

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Citizen In brief

Talks on parks smoking ban

VIEWS on whether smoking should be banned in parks and play areas will see residents consulted across Hyndburn.

There are now plans to hold consultations at schools, children's centres and at community groups.

Girls play cricket

CRICKET sessions for women and girls take place at Church and Oswaldtwistle Cricket Club, Blackburn Road, Oswaldtwistle.

All abilities are welcome. For details, call 01254 380293.

Museum appeal

Hyndburn Heritage and Community Group has launched a new Hyndburn museum and is looking for a permanent home.

For details, call Angela Fryatt on 07931 484 971 or email angela.fryatt@hyndburnheritage.co.uk.

Bikes pests blitz

Off-road bikes which have been causing a nuisance in Huncoat are a police priority this month.

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CitizenTime

Bachelor boy is looking for love

Spencer Matthews rose to fame on reality drama Made In Chelsea. The 23-year-old talks about expanding his circle of friends, finding love on the new series of The Bachelor.

60 SECONDS WITH ... SPENCER MATTHEWS

WHY DID YOU WANT TO DO THE NEW SERIES OF THE BACHELOR?
I've had the same group of friends since I was 10. I love my friends, but I wanted to meet some people I wouldn't ordinarily meet. I'm a romantic at heart and I'm looking for love.

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE FIRST EPISODE?
I had the difficult task of cutting 24 girls down to 15. The cuts won't be quite so dramatic after that. You get to see me trying to get to know each of the girls, in an almost speed-dating kind of way. Even though I didn't get the chance to know all the girls very well, it's still emotional – you feel like you're breaking up with people.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A GIRL?
I look for honesty above everything. I want a girl who is just honest and happy with herself, who doesn't change around people and doesn't particularly care what others think.

DOES SHE HAVE TO BE POSH?
Not at all. My dad is a mechanic from Sheffield and my grandmother lives in Rotherham, bless her.

WHO IS YOUR DREAM WOMAN?
I've had the fortune of dating some wonderful girls in the past and we all get on famously still. But if we're talking about celebrities, I would probably say Mila Kunis. I love her performance in Forgetting Sarah Marshall and the fact she does Meg's voice on Family Guy, which is one of my favourite shows. She's obviously a really fun person as well as being blindingly attractive.

What's on

theatre

SABBAT: THE TRIALS OF THE PENDLE WITCHES — Colne Muni, until Saturday, July 14.
THE AIRBORNE ADVENTURES OF ELISABETH AND JEANNE — The Lowry, Salford Quays, Thursday and Friday, July 12 and 13.

gigs

MARTIN STEPHENSON — Darwen Library Theatre, Thursday, July 12.
THE LANCASHIRE HOTPOTS — The Lowry, Salford Quays, Friday, July 13.
ALISON KRAUSS AND UNION STATION — Manchester Apollo, Friday, July 13.
MUGSTAR — with Remember Remember, the Continental, Preston, Friday, July 13.
THINK FLOYD — the Grand, Clitheroe, Saturday, July 14.
LADY ANTEBELLUM — Manchester Apollo, Sunday, July 15.
CAMEO — Manchester Ritz, Sunday, July 15.
DIANA VICKERS — Manchester Deaf Institute, Monday, July 16.

comedy

RHYS DARBY — The Lowry, Salford Quays, Sunday, July 15.
ANDY ZALTZMAN — The Lowry, Salford Quays, Sunday, July 15.
LUCY PORTER AND SMUG ROBERTS — The Lowry, Salford Quays, Saturday, July 21.

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No1 Floyd tribute act

Think Floyd, regarded as the number one Pink Floyd tribute act, return to Clitheroe Grand next week with a stunning new show.

Renowned for their celebration of the music of Pink Floyd, the band recently headlined the Lindos Pink Floyd Festival.

"We've had a wonderful year, playing in Malta and Greece and all over England, and we are especially looking forward to coming to Clitheroe again because it was a lovely gig last time," said Think Floyd vocalist Lewis Hall.

"A lot of our shows in England have sold out, which is amazing, and we've been especially overwhelmed by the fantastic audience response to all our concerts."

Capturing the essence of Pink Floyd is a complex combination of sensational sound and mind blowing vision and the band's brand new act celebrates the 40th anniversary of Floyd's iconic film, 'Live at Pompeii'.

SHINING ON: Think Floyd

The show will also feature a selection of tracks from the film, as well as a whole range of classic Pink Floyd from the Syd Barrett era, through Dark Side of the Moon, Wish You Were Here and The Wall. "There will be some real surprises in there, and a lot of our fans have said it is our best show yet which is fantastic to hear," said Lewis.

■ Think Floyd, the Grand, Clitheroe, Saturday, July 14. Details from 01200 421599.

Cinema round-up

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (12A) High school student Peter Parker (Andrew Garfield) is bitten by a genetically modified arachnid that imbues him with superhuman powers.

FRIENDS WITH KIDS (15) A comedy about the entwined fates of six friends, who live and work in Manhattan, over four turbulent years, starring Adam Scott and Jennifer Westfeldt.

KATY PERRY: PART OF ME (PG) A documentary that traces her ascent from gospel singer Katy Hudson to the present day with countless awards cluttering the mantelpiece.

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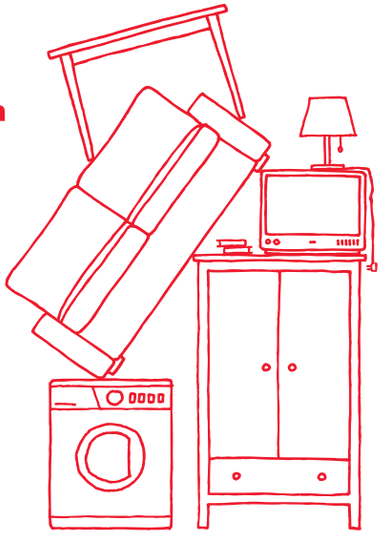

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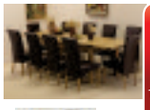

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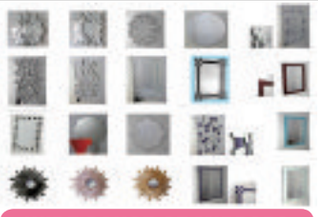

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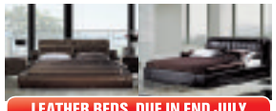

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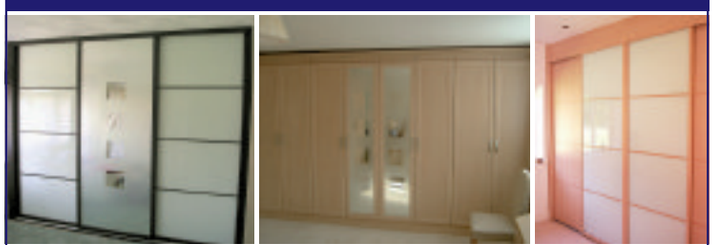

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Further information can be requested via: East Lancashire CCG, Michelle Connolly, HR Officer on 01282 644781 or via email michelle.connolly@eastlancspct.nhs.uk

Full details can also be found online at www.eastlancspct.nhs.uk

The closing date for receipt of applications for this post is no later than 12.00 noon on Thursday 12 July 2012.

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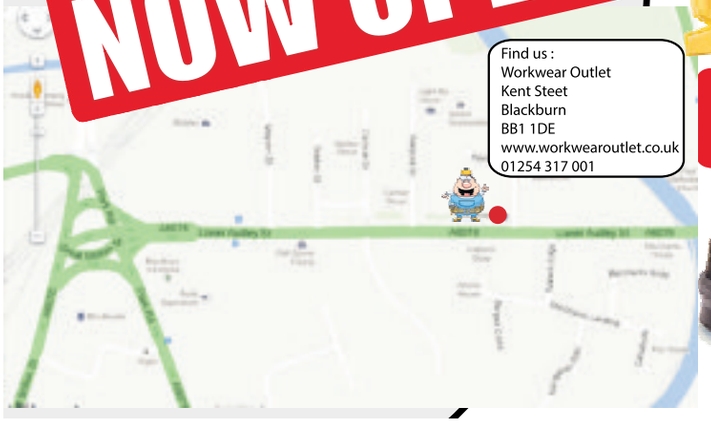

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